

Application Serial No. 09/747,365

**REMARKS**

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Adams for his time and consideration given during the telephonic interview of January 18, 2005. The Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's careful review of this application.

In connection with a petition and two month extension fee to extend the due date to January 21, 2005, consideration of the claim amendments above and the remarks below is respectfully requested. Claims 1-2 have been rejected. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-2 have been cancelled and Claims 3-18 are now pending in this application. The independent claims are Claims 3, 7, and 13. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the application and in view of the following remarks.

Summary of Telephonic Interview Conducted on January 18, 2005

The Applicants and the undersigned extend their gratitude to the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted with the Examiner on January 18, 2005. During the telephonic interview, the Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed a proposed claim amendment.

The Applicants' representative explained that each of the three new independent claims contain elements that are not taught by the prior art of record. Specifically, for new independent Claim 3, it was explained that the prior art does not provide any teaching of the combination of (1) receiving a first message via HTTP from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server, (2) the request further comprising a computer programming variable operation that is set equal to alphanumeric text comprising 'getcacert' that initiates a search for a certificate authority certificate; and responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising (3) the certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server in a (4) Base64 format and encoded in (5) ASCII with (6) content type set to text/html.

In connection with new independent Claim 7, it was explained that the prior art does not provide any teaching of the combination of (1) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising a certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server to the client device; and (2) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device, the certificate request comprising (3) a nonce value, (4)

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a user's name, (5) a user's password, (6) a device identifier, (7) a customer identifier, and (8) a certificate request to be signed.

In connection with new independent Claim 13, it was explained that the prior art of record does not provide any teaching of the combination of (1) receiving a first message from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server; (2) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising a certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and a routing policy server to the client device, wherein (3) the second message comprises a programming variable status that is set equal to (4) alphanumeric text comprising '0&certificate' that indicates certificate authority information follows this text; and (5) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device comprising a certificate request to be signed.

Examiner Adams suggested a few changes to the proposed claims to make them in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph (which have been adopted by the Applicants and are in the claims presented above). Examiner Adams stated he would take these points discussed by the Applicants under consideration and that he would likely need to conduct an update search of the prior art.

The Applicants and the undersigned request Examiner Adams to review this interview summary and to approve it by writing "Interview Record OK" along with his initials and the date next to this summary in the margin as discussed in MPEP § 713.04, p. 700-202.

#### Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Zimmerman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,526,131 (hereinafter the "Zimmerman reference") in view of a printed publication entitled, "Introduction to SSL," (hereinafter the "SSL reference") allegedly published on October 9, 1998 and retrieved from the Internet on May 19, 2004 at: <http://developer.netscape.com/docs/manuals/security/sslin/contents.htm>.

The Applicants will address each independent claim separately as the Applicants believe that each independent claim is separately patentable over the prior art of record.

The Applicants note that the previous two pending claims have been cancelled and the Applicants have presented new Claims 3-18. However, the Applicants will discuss these new claims to explain how they are different from the prior art of record.

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Independent Claim 3

It is respectfully submitted that the Zimmerman and SSL references fail to describe, teach, or suggest the combination of (1) receiving a first message via HTTP from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server, (2) the request further comprising a computer programming variable operation that is set equal to (3) alphanumeric text comprising 'getcacert' that initiates a search for a certificate authority certificate; (4) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising the certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server in a Base64 format and encoded in ASCII with content type set to text/html; (5) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device; (6) responding to the client device request by signing the certificate; and (7) transmitting a fourth message comprising the certificate signed by a certificate authority of one of the clearinghouse and the routing policy server, as recited in new independent Claim 3.

The Zimmerman Reference

The Zimmerman reference describes ways to avoid the need for dedicated PTSN phone lines. Dedicated PTSN phone lines can be phone lines used to keep two computer systems permanently connected for immediate communication between the two systems when required. A dedicated phone line is a simple, convenient and secure way to connect two systems.

Meanwhile, the Zimmerman reference describes a way to have the functional capabilities of a dedicated connection using a dial-up connection or another connection method that is used only when needed. The Zimmerman reference relates to remotely waking up customer premises equipment to cause the latter to initiate communication with a network-based service system.

The Zimmerman reference describes ways to use a wake-up call to a remote device to quickly establish a connection, rather than maintaining a dedicated phone line. The wakeup call is identified by means of a characteristic caller ID or distinctive ring, or, in the event the call is picked up, by rapid call termination, by an in-band signal, or by a predetermined period of silence. All these call characteristics permit the customer premises equipment to recognize wakeup calls on a line also receiving normal telephone calls.

The Examiner refers the Applicants to Column 8, lines 37-45 of the Zimmerman reference that generally describes the use of a Secure Sockets Layers (SSLs) to establish secure

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communications. However, this section of the Zimmerman reference does not provide any further details about how SSL is used. In fact, the Examiner admits that the Zimmerman reference does not teach the specifics of the SSL protocol. See Office Action of August 20, 2004; page 2, paragraph number 4.

In light of this, it is apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the Zimmerman reference cannot anticipate nor render obvious a combination of (a) receiving a first message via HTTP from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server, (b) the request further comprising a computer programming variable operation that is set equal to alphanumeric text comprising 'getcacert' that initiates a search for a certificate authority certificate; and responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising (c) the certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server in a (d) Base64 format and encoded in (e) ASCII with (f) content type set to text/html.

#### The SSL reference

The Examiner admits that the Zimmerman reference does not teach the specifics of the SSL protocol. To make up for this SSL deficiency, the Examiner relies on the SSL reference.

The SSL reference generally teaches the SSL protocol. The SSL provides a summary of steps that are taken during an SSL handshake to establish a secure communications channel. However, the SSL reference does not provide any teaching or description of the contents of messages that are exchanged between a client device and a server. See the SSL reference on page 6, second full paragraph after the table which states the following:

"The exact programmatic details of the messages exchanged during the SSL handshake are beyond the scope of this document. However, the steps involved can be summarized as follows (assuming the use of cipher suites listed in Cipher Suites with RSA key exchange):"

Therefore, it is apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the SSL reference, like the Zimmerman reference, also cannot anticipate nor render obvious a combination of (a) receiving a first message via HTTP from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server, (b) the request further comprising a computer programming variable operation that is set equal to alphanumeric text comprising 'getcacert' that

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initiates a search for a certificate authority certificate; and responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising (c) the certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server in a (d) Base64 format and encoded in (e) ASCII with (f) content type set to text/html, as recited in new independent Claim 3.

In light of the differences between new Claim 3 and the SSL and Zimmerman references, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the broadest, reasonable interpretation of these references cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in new independent Claim 3. Accordingly, consideration and an indication that Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art are respectfully requested.

#### Independent Claim 7

It is respectfully submitted that the Zimmerman and SSL references fail to describe, teach, or suggest the combination of (1) receiving a first message from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server; (2) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising a certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server to the client device; (3) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device, the certificate request comprising a (4) nonce value, a (5) user's name, a (6) user's password, a (7) device identifier, a (8) customer identifier, and a (9) certificate request to be signed; (10) responding to the client device request by signing the certificate; and (11) transmitting a fourth message comprising the certificate signed by the CA of the clearinghouse or routing policy server, as recited in amended independent Claim 7.

As noted above in the discussion of independent Claim 3, the Zimmerman and SSL references do not address exact programmatic details of the messages exchanged during an SSL handshake. Therefore, it is apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the SSL reference and Zimmerman references cannot anticipate nor render obvious a combination of (a) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device, the certificate request comprising a (b) nonce value, a (c) user's name, a (d) user's password, a (e) device identifier, a (f) customer identifier, and a (g) certificate request to be signed; (h) responding to the client device request by signing the certificate; and (i) transmitting a fourth message comprising the

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certificate signed by the CA of the clearinghouse or routing policy server, as recited in new independent Claim 7.

In light of the differences between new Claim 7 and the SSL and Zimmerman references, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the broadest, reasonable interpretation of these references cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in new independent Claim 7. Accordingly, consideration and an indication that Claim 7 is allowable over the prior art are respectfully requested.

#### Independent Claim 13

It is respectfully submitted that the Zimmerman and SSL references fail to describe, teach, or suggest the combination of (1) receiving a first message from a client device that comprises a request to obtain an identity one of a clearinghouse and routing policy server; (2) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising a certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and a routing policy server to the client device, wherein the second message comprises (3) a programming variable status that is set equal to (4) alphanumeric text comprising '0&certificate' that indicates certificate authority information follows the alphanumeric text; (5) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request from the client device comprising a certificate request to be signed; (6) responding to the client device request by signing the certificate; and (7) transmitting a fourth message comprising the certificate signed by the certificate authority of the clearinghouse or routing policy server, as recited in new independent Claim 13.

As noted above in the discussion of independent Claim 3, the Zimmerman and SSL references do not address exact programmatic details of the messages exchanged during an SSL handshake. Therefore, it is apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the SSL reference, like the Zimmerman reference, also cannot anticipate nor render obvious a combination of (a) responding to the request by transmitting a second message comprising a certificate authority certificate of one of a clearinghouse and a routing policy server to the client device, wherein the second message comprises (b) a programming variable status that is set equal to (c) alphanumeric text comprising '0&certificate' that indicates certificate authority information follows the alphanumeric text; (d) receiving a third message comprising a certificate request

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from the client device comprising a certificate request to be signed; and (e) responding to the client device request by signing the certificate, as recited in new independent Claim 13.

In light of the differences between new Claim 13 and the SSL and Zimmerman references, one of ordinary skill in the art recognizes that the broadest, reasonable interpretation of these references cannot anticipate or render obvious the recitations as set forth in new independent Claim 13. Accordingly, consideration and an indication that Claim 13 is allowable over the prior art are respectfully requested.

New Dependent Claims 4-6, 8-12, and 14-18

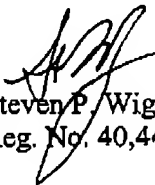
These new dependent claims are being presented to further define the invention. These dependent claims should be allowable because their corresponding independent claims should be allowable over the prior art of record. Consideration of these new claims and an early notice of allowance are courteously solicited from the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on August 20, 2004. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Adams for the consideration of these remarks. The Applicants have submitted remarks to traverse the pending rejections and to identify the differences between new Claims 3-18 and the prior art. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such Action is hereby courteously solicited.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 404.572.2884.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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